

**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
24.05.2000 Bulletin 2000/21

(51) Int Cl.7: **H01J 61/34, H01J 61/02**

(21) Application number: **99308633.9**

(22) Date of filing: **29.10.1999**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventor: **Nakagawa, Atsuji**
Himeji-shi, Hyogo (JP)

(74) Representative: **Freed, Arthur Woolf**
Reginald W. Barker & Co.,
Cliffords Inn
Fetter Lane
London EC4A 1BY (GB)

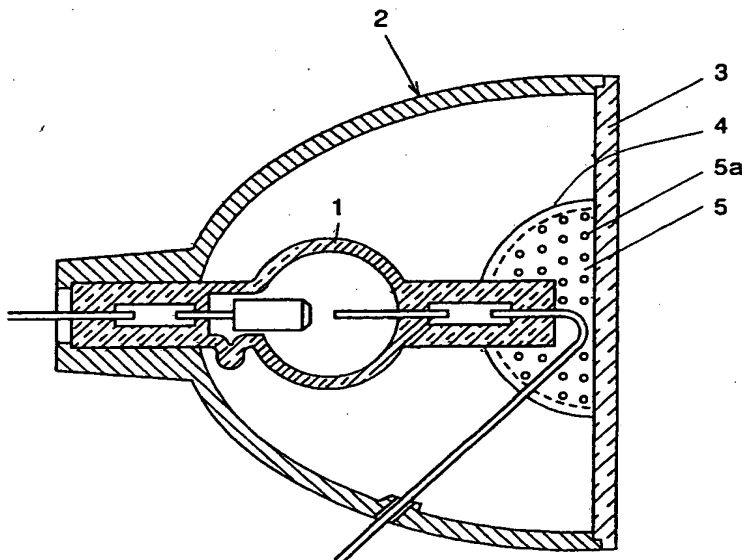
(30) Priority: **30.10.1998 JP 31079398**
16.07.1999 JP 20326799

(71) Applicant: **Phoenix Electric Co., Ltd.**
Himeji-Shi, Hyogo-ken (JP)

(54) Discharge lamp

(57) A discharge lamp is provided which employs a higher-pressure and higher-wattage lamp body 1 and is capable of effectively preventing the scattering of broken pieces of the lamp body 1 at explosion of the lamp

body 1. The discharge lamp comprises a lamp body 1, a reflector 2 having the lamp body 1, and a front glass 3 fitted on a front portion of the reflector 2, wherein the reflector 2 has vent holes 4 in which mesh sheets 6 or perforated plates 5 are fitted.

Fig.1

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a discharge lamp to be used as a light source for a projector or the like and, more particularly, to a discharge lamp suitable for a high wattage light source.

Description of the Prior Art

[0002] Discharge lamps are widely used as light sources for various lighting apparatuses and, in recent years, also used as light sources for image projectors.

[0003] To increase the brightness of the projectors, an attempt has rapidly been made to produce a higher-pressure and higher-wattage discharge lamp. However, an increase in the inside pressure of the discharge lamp entails a high risk of explosion of the discharge lamp, because a gas filled in the discharge lamp expands due to a temperature rise of the discharge lamp when the discharge lamp is lit.

[0004] Fig. 21 is a vertical sectional view of a conventional discharge lamp, in which reference numerals 1 and 2 denote a lamp body and a reflector (reflection mirror), respectively.

[0005] A thick front glass 3 is fitted on a front portion of the reflector 2 so that, even if the lamp body 1 explodes, broken pieces thereof are prevented from scattering forwardly of the discharge lamp. That is, the lamp body 1 is hermetically enclosed by the reflector 2 and the front glass 3.

[0006] With the hermetically enclosed structure, however, air around the lamp body 1 is heated when the lamp body 1 is lit, so that the temperature in a hermetic space defined by the reflector 2 and the front glass 3 is significantly increased. In consideration of such thermal conditions, the upper limit of the wattage of the lamp body 1 is 150W in practice and, therefore, it has been difficult to further increase the inside pressure and wattage of the lamp body.

[0007] It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a discharge lamp which employs a higher-pressure and higher-wattage lamp body and is capable of effectively preventing the scattering of broken pieces of the lamp body at explosion of the lamp body.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a discharge lamp which comprises a lamp body, a reflector, and a front glass fitted on a front portion of the reflector, wherein the reflector has two vent holes in which mesh sheets or perforated plates are fitted. (Fig.1-4)

[0009] With this arrangement, air heated in an inside

space of the reflector can be released from the discharge lamp through mesh of the mesh sheets or perforations of the perforated plates, so that an excessive temperature rise around the lamp body can be prevented. Therefore, a higher-pressure and higher-wattage lamp body having a wattage higher than 150W can be employed as the lamp body to be housed in the inside space of the reflector of the discharge lamp.

[0010] In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a discharge lamp which comprises a lamp body, a reflector, and a front glass fitted on a front portion of the reflector, wherein the reflector has two vent holes in which plates formed with slits are fitted, wherein the plates have baffles provided along the slits for directing outside air introduced into an inside space of the reflector through the slits toward a high temperature portion of the lamp body. (Fig. 5,6)

[0011] With this arrangement, outside air introduced into the inside space through the slits are allowed to uniformly flow toward the lamp body by the baffles to efficiently cool the ambience of the lamp body, and then released to the outside through another slits.

[0012] Thus, the ambient temperature of the lamp body is prevented from being excessively increased. Therefore, a higher-pressure and higher-wattage lamp body having a wattage higher than 150W can be employed as the lamp body of the discharge lamp.

[0013] In the discharge lamp according to the first or second aspect of the invention, the vent holes may be a through-hole formed in the reflector (Fig.7,8) or a cut-away portion formed in the reflector in association with the front portion thereof. (Fig.1-6)

[0014] With this arrangement, the reflector is effectively provided with the vent holes in which the mesh sheets or the perforated plates are fitted.

[0015] In accordance with a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a discharge lamp which comprises a lamp body, a reflector, and a front glass fitted on a front portion of the reflector, wherein the reflector has two vent portions 51 having a multiplicity of through-holes 5a formed therein (Fig.9,10), or shaped like the teeth of a comb (Fig.11,12).

[0016] With this arrangement, the reflector itself functions as a perforated plate for ventilation without the use of the mesh sheet or the perforated plate.

[0017] In accordance with a fourth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a discharge lamp which comprises a lamp body, a reflector having the lamp body at the center of it, a ring spacer fitted on a front portion of the reflector, and a front glass fitted on a front portion of the ring spacer, wherein the ring spacer has vent holes having mesh of the mesh sheets, perforated plates or plates formed with a slit, wherein the plates have baffles provided along the slits for directing outside air introduced into an inside space of the reflector through the slits toward a high temperature portion of the lamp body.

[0018] In accordance with the fifth aspect of the present invention (Fig.19,20), the ring spacer has vent portions 51 having a multiplicity of through-holes formed therein, or shaped like the teeth of a comb.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019]

Fig. 1 is a vertical sectional view illustrating a first embodiment;
 Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view illustrating the first embodiment;
 Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view illustrating a second embodiment;
 Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view illustrating the second embodiment;
 Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view illustrating the third embodiment;
 Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view illustrating a third embodiment;
 Fig. 7 is a front view illustrating a fourth embodiment;
 Fig. 8 is a cross sectional view illustrating a fourth embodiment;
 Fig. 9 is a front view illustrating a fifth embodiment;
 Fig. 10 is a cross sectional view illustrating a fifth embodiment;
 Fig. 11 is a front view illustrating a modified fifth embodiment;
 Fig. 12 is a cross sectional view illustrating a modified fifth embodiment;
 Fig. 13 is a plan sectional view illustrating a sixth embodiment;
 Fig. 14 is a vertical sectional view illustrating a sixth embodiment;
 Fig. 15 is a inside view illustrating a ring spacer used for sixth embodiment;
 Fig. 16 is a plan sectional view illustrating a seventh embodiment;
 Fig. 17 is a vertical sectional view illustrating a seventh embodiment;
 Fig. 18 is a inside view illustrating a ring spacer used for seventh embodiment;
 Fig. 19 is a vertical sectional view illustrating a eighth embodiment;
 Fig. 20 is a vertical sectional view illustrating a eighth modified embodiment; and
 Fig. 21 is a vertical sectional view illustrating a conventional discharge lamp.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0020] The present invention will hereinafter be described by way of embodiments thereof.

First Embodiment

[0021] Figs. 1 and 2 are a vertical sectional view and a cross sectional view, respectively, illustrating a discharge lamp according to a first embodiment of the invention. As shown, the discharge lamp comprises a lamp body 1, a reflector 2 having the lamp body 1 at the center of it, and a front glass 3 fitted on a front portion of the reflector 2. The reflector 2 has two cut-away openings 4 as vent holes formed therein adjacent a front portion (on which the front glass 3 is fitted) thereof.

[0022] In this embodiment, portions of the reflector 2 adjacent to the front portion thereof have been cut away for the formation of the openings 4 for fitting mesh sheets or perforated plates (in communication with a front portion thereof). With this arrangement, machining for the formation of the openings 4 is easy, and the openings 4 formed in these portions are less liable to reduce the reflecting effect of the reflector.

[0023] In the present invention, the positions and configurations of the openings 4 are not limited to those illustrated, but the openings 4 may have any shape such as a circular, oval or rectangular shape and be formed in non-contact with the front portion.

[0024] Punched metal plates, ceramic plates with perforations or heat-resistant plastics plates with perforations as perforated plates 5 are respectively fitted in the openings 4 of the reflector 2.

[0025] Although the punched metal plates, punched ceramic plates with perforations or heat-resistant plastics plates with perforations are used as the perforated plates 5 in this embodiment, plates each formed with a multiplicity of drilled holes or slits, or expanded metal mesh plates each obtained by expanding an incised metal plate may be used as the perforated plates.

[0026] Since air is allowed to flow between the inside and outside of the reflector 2 through holes 5a of the punched metal plates 5, a space defined by the reflector 2 and the front glass 3 around the lamp body 1 is not a hermetic space and, hence, heat generated when the lamp body is lit can be released to the outside through the holes 5a. Therefore, a higher-pressure and higher-wattage lamp body can be employed as the lamp body, making it possible to produce a discharge lamp, for example, having a wattage higher than 150W.

[0027] Even if the lamp body 1 explodes, broken pieces of the lamp body 1 do not pass through the holes 5a thereby to be prevented from scattering outside.

[0028] Since the discharge lamp can employ the higher-pressure and higher-wattage lamp body and effectively prevent the scattering of the broken pieces of the lamp body at the explosion of the lamp body, the discharge lamp serves as a safe light source having a high brightness.

Second Embodiment

[0029] Figs. 3 and 4 are a vertical sectional view and

a cross (plan) sectional view, respectively, illustrating a discharge lamp according to a second embodiment of the invention.

[0030] The discharge lamp of the second embodiment has substantially the same construction as the discharge lamp of the first embodiment, except that metal mesh sheets 6 are used instead of the punched metal plates 5 as the perforated plates.

[0031] Since air ventilation is achieved through meshes of the mesh sheets 6, heat generated when the lamp body 1 is lit is released to the outside through the meshes of the mesh sheets 6. Further, even if the lamp body 1 explodes, the mesh sheets 6 prevent broken pieces of the lamp body 1 from scattering outside.

Third Embodiment

[0032] Figs. 5 and 6 are a cross (plan) sectional view and a vertical sectional view, respectively, illustrating a discharge lamp according to a third embodiment of the invention. The third embodiment is substantially the same as the embodiments described above in that air is allowed to flow between the inside and outside of the reflector 2 through the holes 5a of the openings 4 formed in the reflector 2 to prevent the temperature rise around the lamp body 1.

[0033] In this embodiment, however, two slit plates 7, 8 formed with slits 7a, 8a are respectively fitted in the two openings 4 of the reflector 2. One slit plate 7 has simple slits 7a, while the other slit plate 8 has slits 8a and baffles 8b provided along the slits 8a.

[0034] Although provision of the baffles 8b is achieved by incising the slit plate 8 for formation of the slits 8a and raising the incised portions in this embodiment, the baffles 8b may otherwise be provided as separate members.

[0035] Outside air introduced through the slits 8a is allowed to uniformly flow toward a high temperature portion of the lamp body 1 by the baffles 8b to efficiently cool the ambience of the lamp body 1, and then released to the outside through the slits 7a of the slit plate 7.

[0036] To facilitate the introduction of the outside air through the slit plate 8 provided with the baffles 8b and the release of the air through the slit plate 7, it is preferred that the slit plate 8 provided with the baffles 8b is located on a lower side of the discharge lamp for utilization of air convection by heat.

[0037] For more efficient and positive cooling, an air blower such as a fan may be provided on a lateral side of the discharge lamp for blowing air toward the slits 8a so that the outside air can forcibly be supplied to the inside of the reflector 2.

[0038] Although the baffles 8b are provided on only one of the slit plates 8 in this embodiment, the baffles may be provided on both of the slit plates 7, 8.

Fourth Embodiment

[0039] Although the discharge lamps of the first and second embodiments are each constructed such that the reflector 2 has the openings 4 in which the perforated plates 5 or the mesh sheets 6 are fitted for provision of vent portions, a discharge lamp according to a fourth embodiment has two large through-holes as openings 4 formed in non-contact with the front portion (particularly adjacent to the front portion of the reflector 2). The openings 4 may have any shape such as a circular, oval or rectangular shape. The openings 4 have perforated plates 5, the mesh sheets 6 or slit plates 7, 8.

Fifth Embodiment

[0040] A discharge lamp according to a fifth embodiment is constructed such that vent portions each having a multiplicity of small diameter through-holes 5a are provided integrally with a reflector 2 thereof, particularly adjacent to the front portion of the reflector 2. Fig. 11 and 12 are a front view and a cross sectional view, respectively, illustrating a modified fifth embodiment. A discharge lamp according to a fifth embodiment is constructed such that holes 5a shaped like the teeth of a comb are provided integrally with a reflector 2 thereof, particularly adjacent to the front portion of the reflector 2. The said through-holes 5a and holes 5a shaped like the teeth of a comb are formed at two points of the front portion of the reflector 2 or at the periphery of the front portion of the reflector 2. The holes 5a are in communication with the front portion of the reflector 2.

[0041] The fifth embodiment offers the same effects as the first to fourth embodiments and, in addition, are advantageous in that the number of parts can be reduced in comparison with the first to fourth embodiments.

Sixth Embodiment

[0042] Fig. 13, 14 and 15 are a vertical sectional view, a cross sectional view, and an inside view of a ring spacer used for this embodiment, respectively, illustrating a discharge lamp according to a sixth embodiment of the invention. As shown, the discharge lamp comprises a lamp body 1, a reflector 2 having the lamp body 1 at the center of it, ring spacer 10 fitted on a front portion of the reflector 2, and a front glass fitted on the ring spacer 10.

[0043] The ring spacer 10 has two rectangular openings 4 as the vent portions at the rear portion of it, wherein the front portion of the reflector 2 is fitted. The ring spacer 10 can adopt two rectangular openings 4 at the front portion of it, wherein the front glass 3 is fitted. (not-illustrated)

[0044] In the present invention, the positions and configurations of the openings 4 are not limited to those illustrated, but the openings 4 may have any shape such as a circular, oval or rectangular shape and be formed

in non-contact with the front portion.

[0045] Punched metal plates, ceramic plates with perforations or heat-resistant plastics plates with perforations as perforated plates 5 are respectively fitted in the openings 4 of the ring spacer 10.

[0046] Although the punched metal plates 5 (or the metal mesh sheets 6) are used as the perforated plates in this embodiment, plates each formed with a multiplicity of drilled holes or slits, or expanded metal mesh plates each obtained by expanding an incised metal plate may be used as the perforated plates.

[0047] Since air is allowed to flow between the inside and outside of the reflector 2 through holes 5a of the punched metal plates 5 (or the metal mesh sheets 6), a space defined by the reflector 2, ring spacer 10, and the front glass 3 around the lamp body 1 is not a hermetic space and, hence, heat generated when the lamp body is lit can be released to the outside through the holes 5a. Therefore, a higher-pressure and higher-wattage lamp body can be employed as the lamp body 1, making it possible to produce a discharge lamp, for example, having a wattage higher than 150W.

[0048] Even if the lamp body 1 explodes, broken pieces of the lamp body 1 do not pass through the holes 5a thereby to be prevented from scattering outside.

Seventh Embodiment

[0049] Figs. 16, 17 and 18 are a cross (plan) sectional view, a vertical sectional view respectively, illustrating a discharge lamp, and a inside view of a ring spacer according to a seventh embodiment of the invention. The seventh embodiment is substantially the same as the embodiments described above in that air is allowed to flow between the inside and outside of the reflector 2 through the openings 4 formed in the ring spacer 10 to prevent the temperature rise around the lamp body 1.

[0050] In this embodiment, however, two slit plates 7, 8 formed with slits are respectively fitted in the two openings 4 of the reflector 2. One slit plate 7 has simple slits 7a, while the other slit plate 8 has slits 8a and baffles 8b provided along the slits 8a.

[0051] Although provision of the baffles 8b is achieved by incising the slit plate 8 for formation of the slits 8a and raising the incised portions in this embodiment, the baffles 8b may otherwise be provided as separate members.

[0052] Outside air introduced through the slits 8a is allowed to uniformly flow toward a high temperature portion of the lamp body 1 by the baffles 8b to efficiently cool the ambience of the lamp body 1, and then released to the outside through the slits 7a of the slit plate 7.

[0053] To facilitate the introduction of the outside air through the slit plate 8 provided with the baffles 8b and the release of the air through the slit plate 7, it is preferred that the slit plate 8 provided with the baffles 8b is located on a lower side of the discharge lamp for utilization of air convection by heat.

[0054] For more efficient and positive cooling, an air blower such as a fan may be provided on a lateral side of the discharge lamp for blowing air toward the slits 8a so that the outside air can forcibly be supplied to the inside of the reflector 2.

[0055] Although the baffles 8b are provided on only one of the slit plates 8 in this embodiment, the baffles may be provided on both of the slit plates 7, 8.

Eighth Embodiment

[0056] Although the discharge lamps of the sixth and seventh embodiments are each constructed such that the ring spacer 10 has the openings 4 in which the perforated plates 5, the mesh sheets 6 or the slit plates 7, 8 are fitted for provision of vent portions, a discharge lamp according to a eighth embodiment (Fig. 19, 20) are constructed such that vent portions each having a multiplicity of small diameter through-holes are provided integrally with a reflector thereof, or vent portions shaped like the teeth of a comb formed therein (Fig. 20) particularly adjacent to the front portion of the reflector 2 (Fig. 19).

[0057] The eighth embodiment offers the same effects as the sixth and seventh embodiments and, in addition, is advantageous in that the number of parts can be reduced in comparison with the said embodiments.

[0058] In the first to eight embodiments, the size, number, positions and configuration of the holes or the slits and the fineness of the meshes for the air ventilation may properly be determined on the basis of the size, wattage, pressure and material of the lamp body and the size and configuration of the reflector for effective heat release and for prevention of the scattering of the broken pieces of the lamp body.

[0059] As described above, the present invention provides a discharge lamp which employs a higher-pressure and higher-wattage lamp body and is capable of effectively preventing the scattering of broken pieces of the lamp body at explosion of the lamp body.

Claims

1. A discharge lamp comprising :

a lamp body, a reflector having the lamp body, and a front glass fitted on a front portion of the reflector, wherein the reflector has vent holes in which mesh sheets or a perforated plates are fitted.

2. A discharge lamp comprising :

a lamp body, a reflector having the lamp body, and a front glass fitted on a front portion of the reflector, wherein the reflector has vent holes in which

plates formed with slits are fitted,
wherein the plates have baffles provided along
the slits for directing outside air introduced into
an inside space of the reflector through the slits
toward a high temperature portion of the lamp
body. 5

tor, and a front glass fitted on a front portion of
the reflector,
wherein the ring spacer has vent portions hav-
ing a multiplicity of through-holes formed there-
in.

3. A discharge lamp as set forth in claim 1 or 2,
wherein the vent holes are through-holes
formed in the reflector. 10
4. A discharge lamp as set forth in claim 1 or 2,
wherein the vent holes are cut-away portions
formed in the reflector in association with the front
portion thereof. 15
5. A discharge lamp comprising :
a lamp body, a reflector, and a front glass fitted
on a front portion of the reflector, wherein the reflec-
tor has a vent portion having a multiplicity of 20
through-holes formed therein.
6. A discharge lamp comprising :
a lamp body, a reflector having the lamp body, 25
ring spacer fitted on a front portion of the reflec-
tor and a front glass fitted on a front portion of
the ring spacer,
wherein the ring spacer has vent holes in which
mesh sheets or a perforated plates are fitted. 30
7. A discharge lamp comprising :
a lamp body, a reflector having the lamp body,
ring spacer fitted on a front portion of the reflec- 35
tor, and a front glass fitted on a front portion of
the reflector,
wherein the ring spacer has vent holes in which
plates formed with slits are fitted,
wherein the plates have baffles provided along 40
the slits for directing outside air introduced into
an inside space of the reflector through the slits
toward a high temperature portion of the lamp
body. 45
8. A discharge lamp as set forth in claim 6 or 7,
wherein the vent holes are through-holes
formed in the ring spacer.
9. A discharge lamp as set forth in claim 5 or 6, 50
wherein the vent holes are cut-away portions
formed in the ring spacer in association with the
front portion thereof.
10. A discharge lamp comprising : 55
a lamp body, a reflector having the lamp body,
ring spacer fitted on a front portion of the reflec-

Fig.1

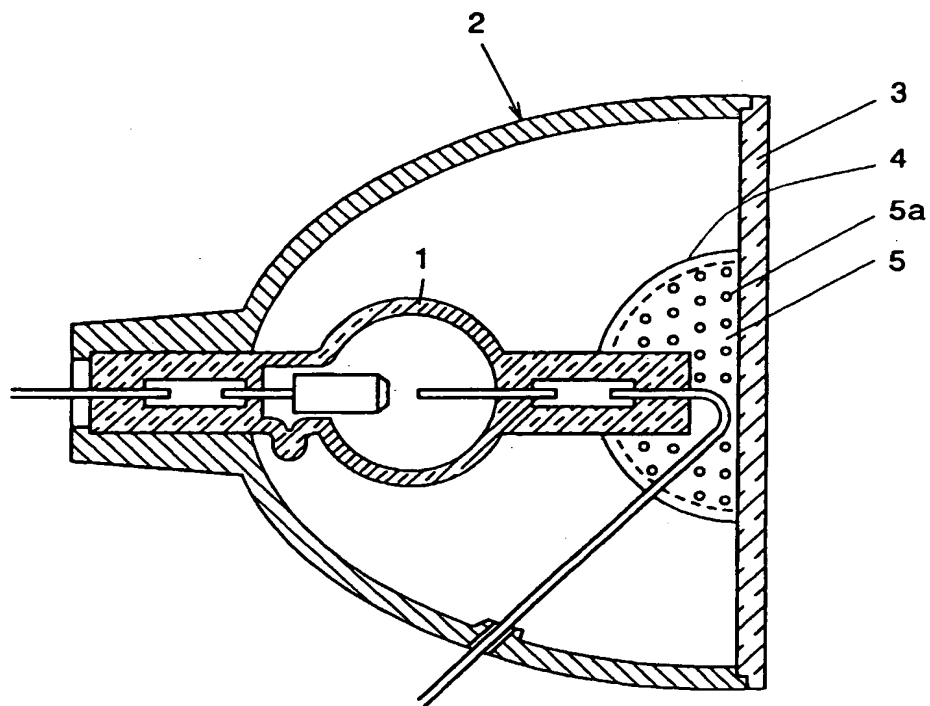


Fig.2

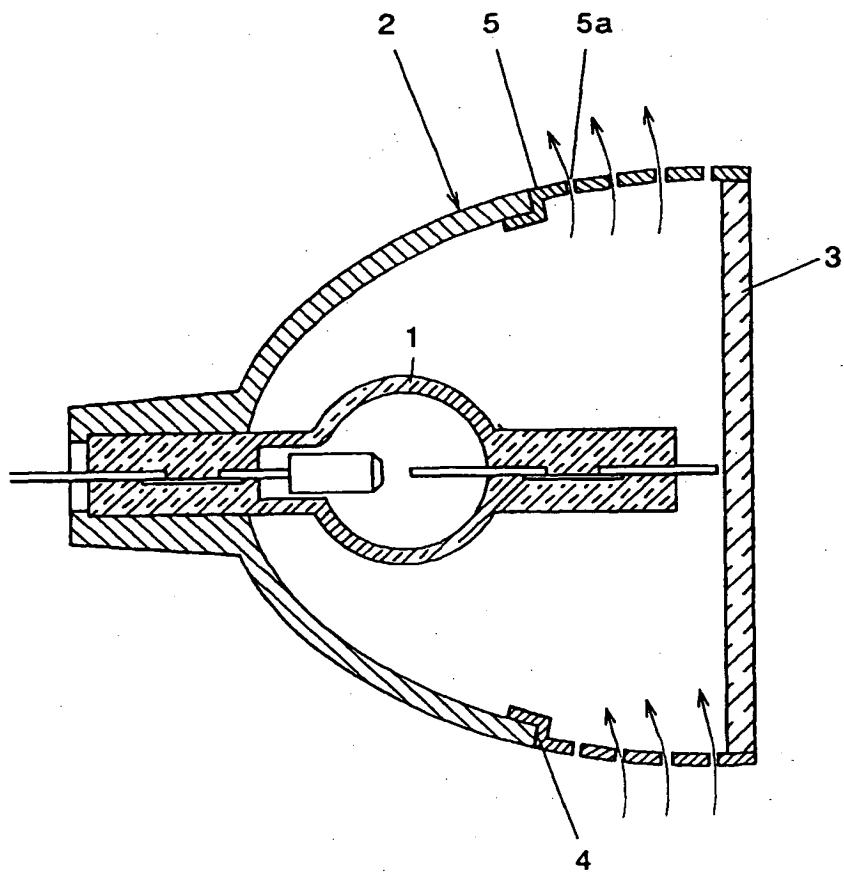


Fig.3

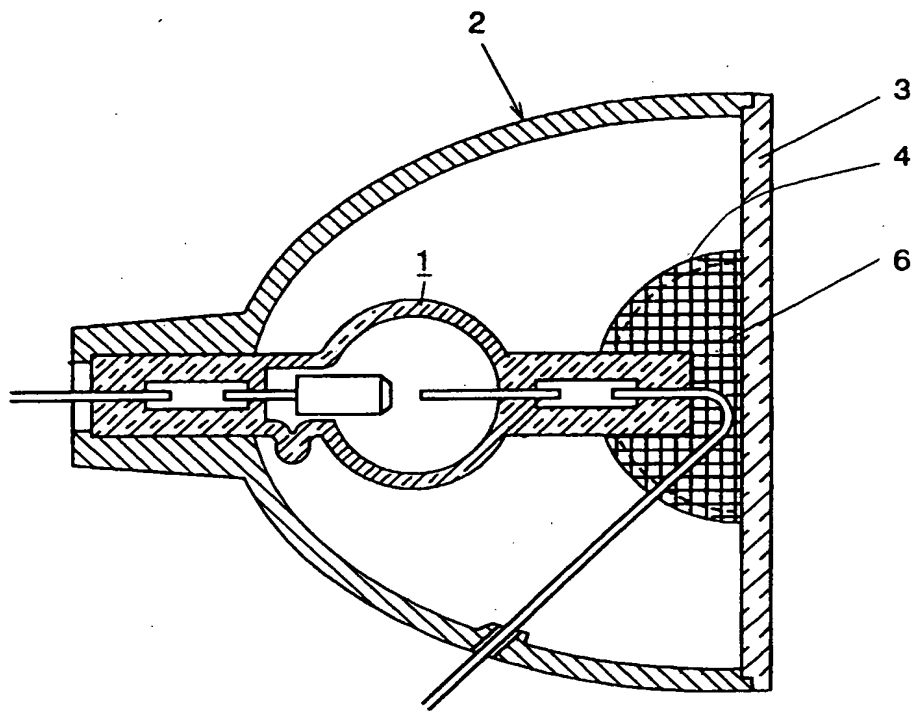


Fig.4

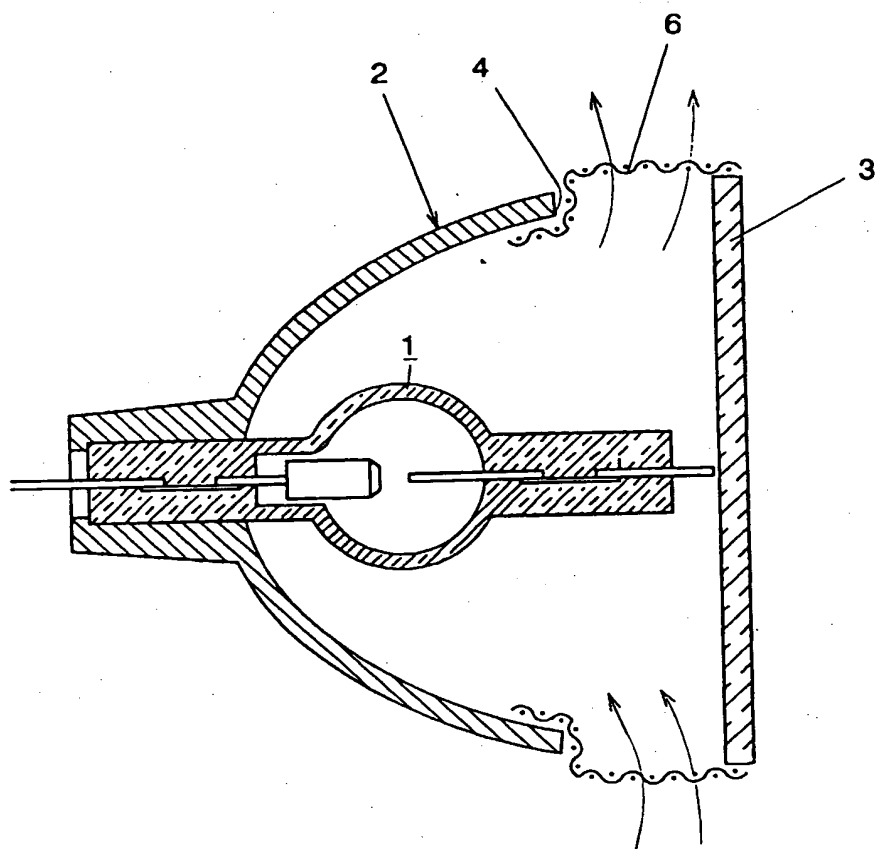


Fig.5

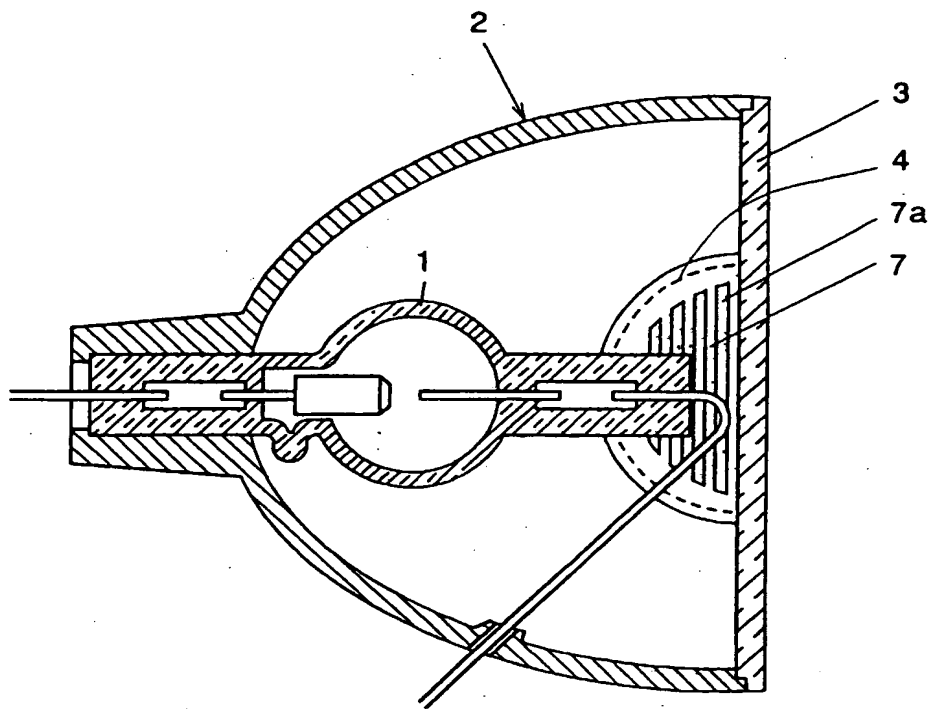


Fig.6

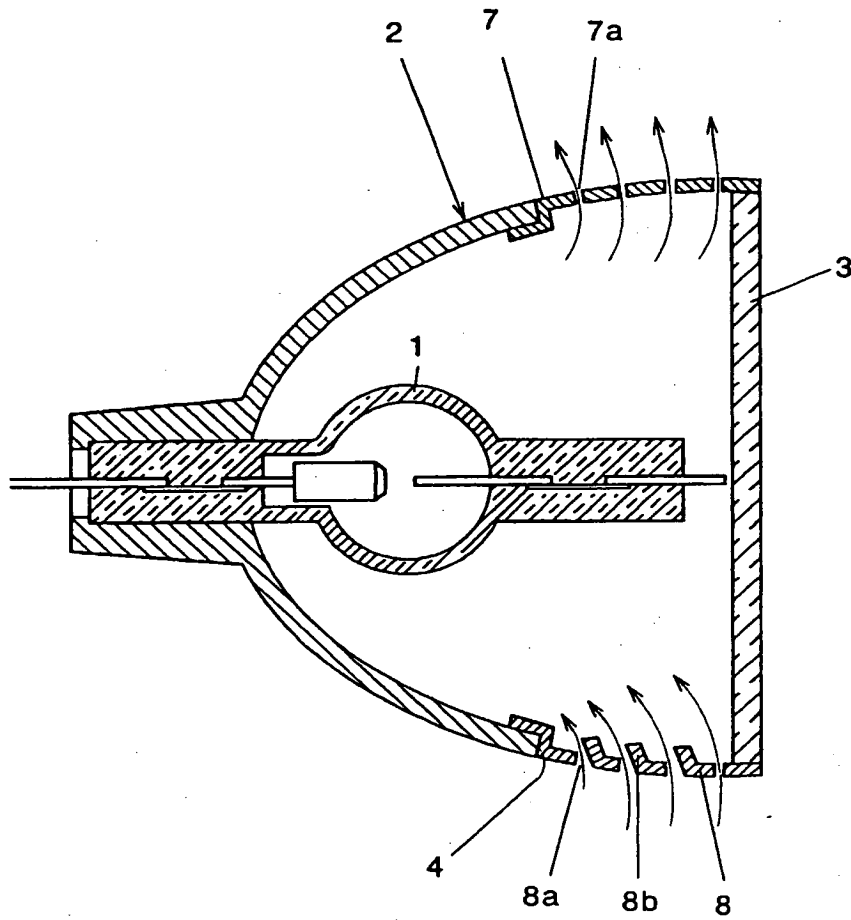


Fig.7

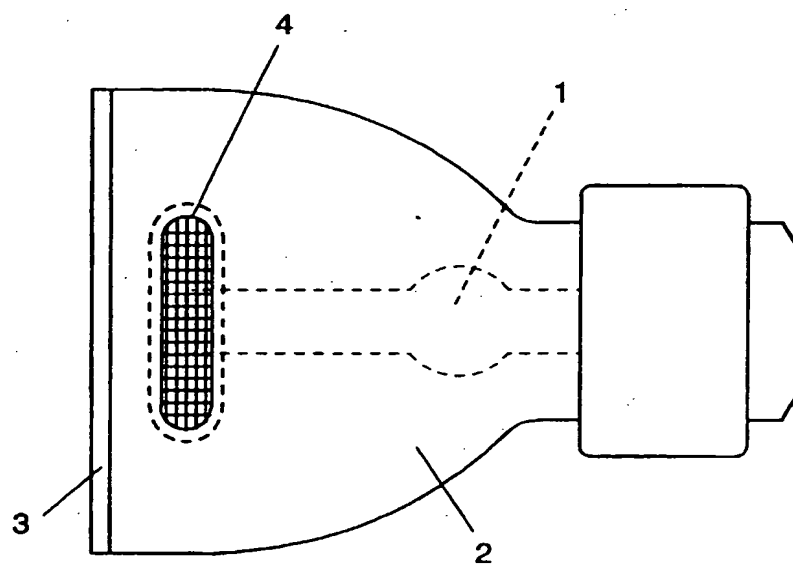


Fig.8

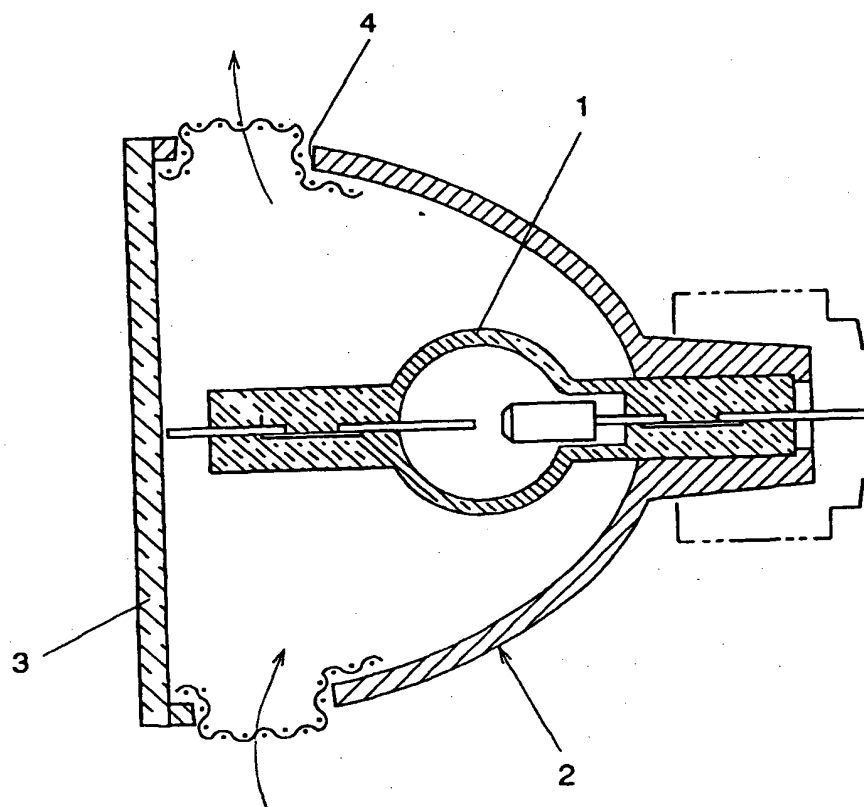


Fig.9

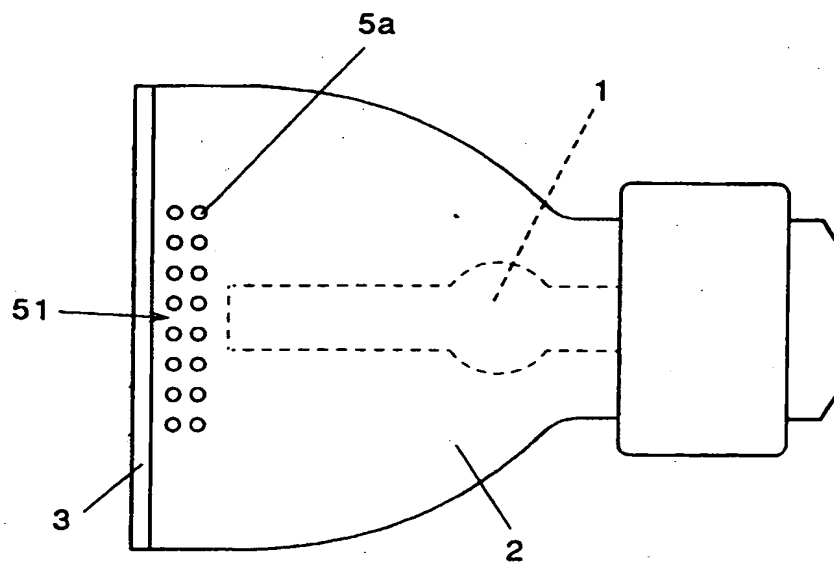


Fig.10

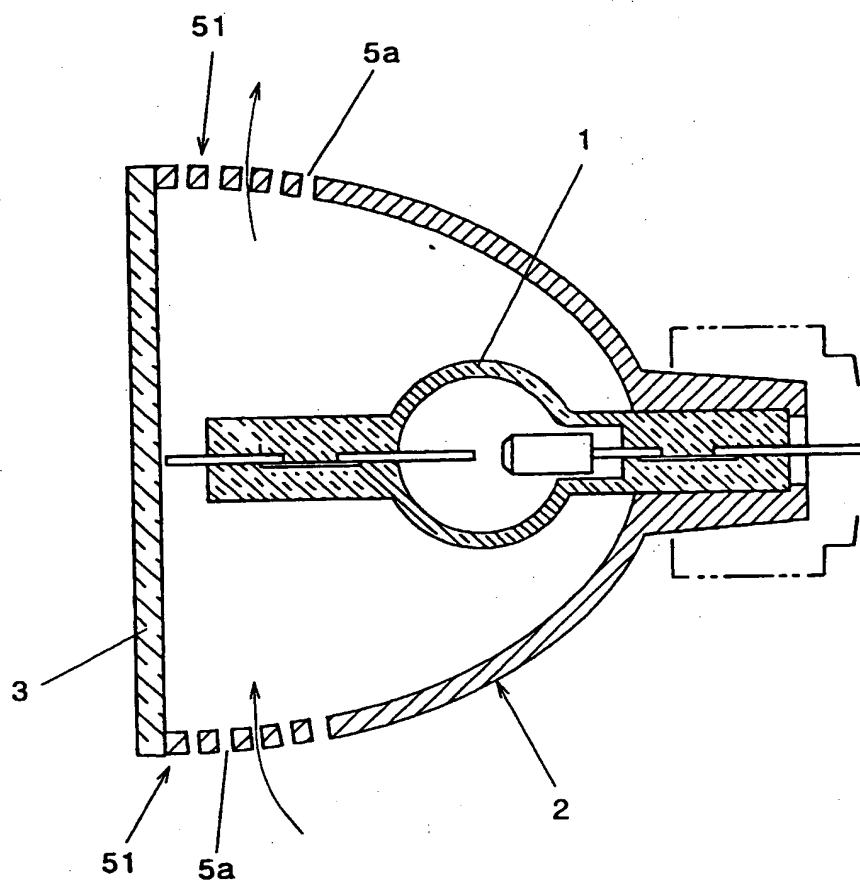


Fig.11

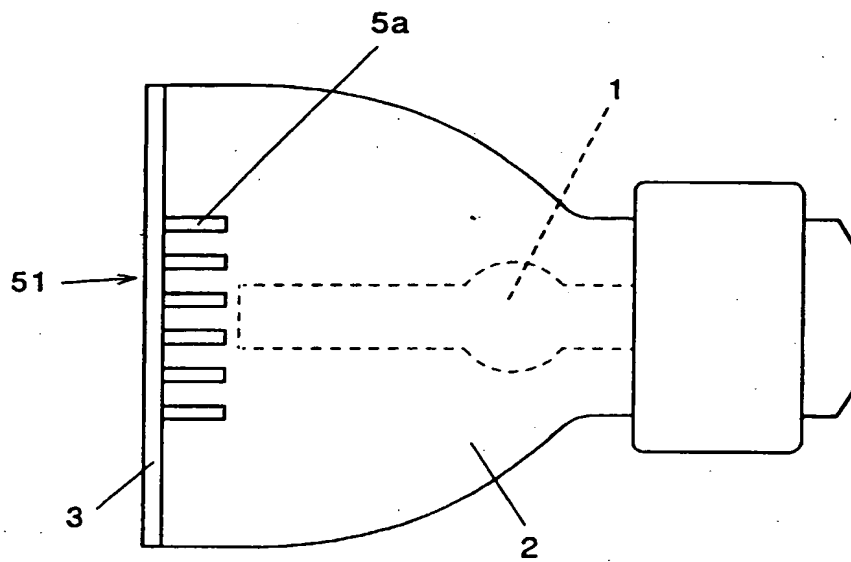


Fig.12

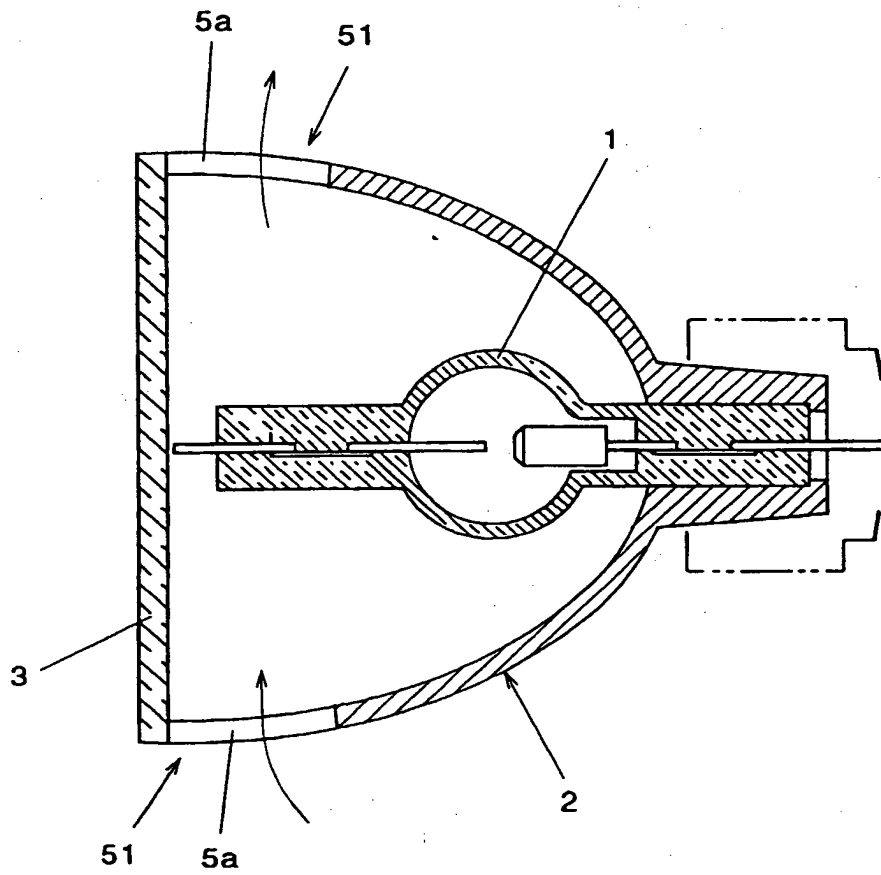


Fig.13

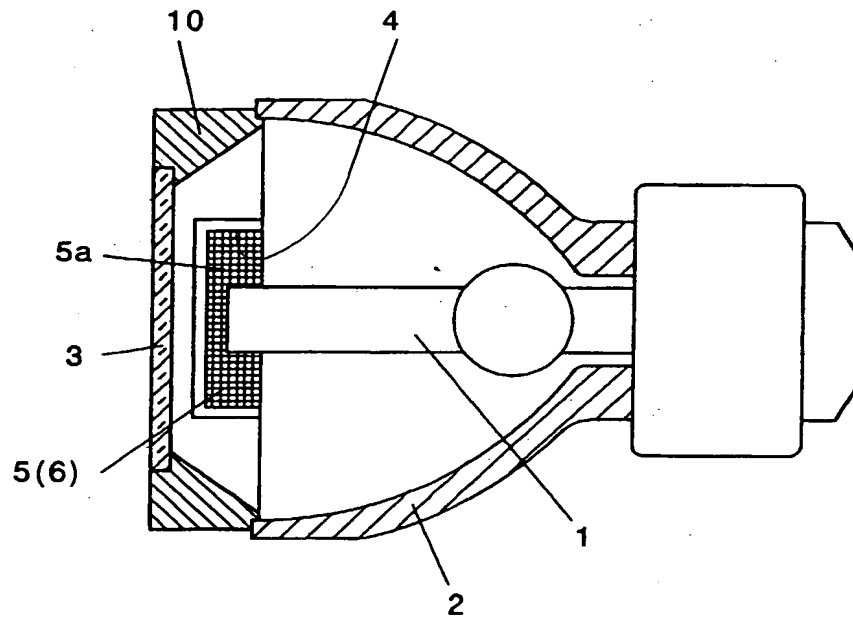


Fig.14

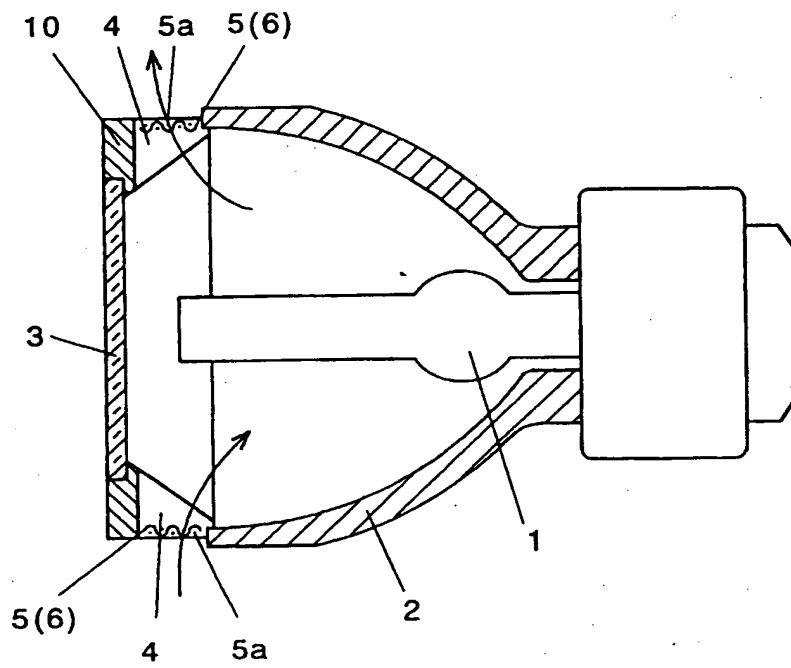


Fig.15

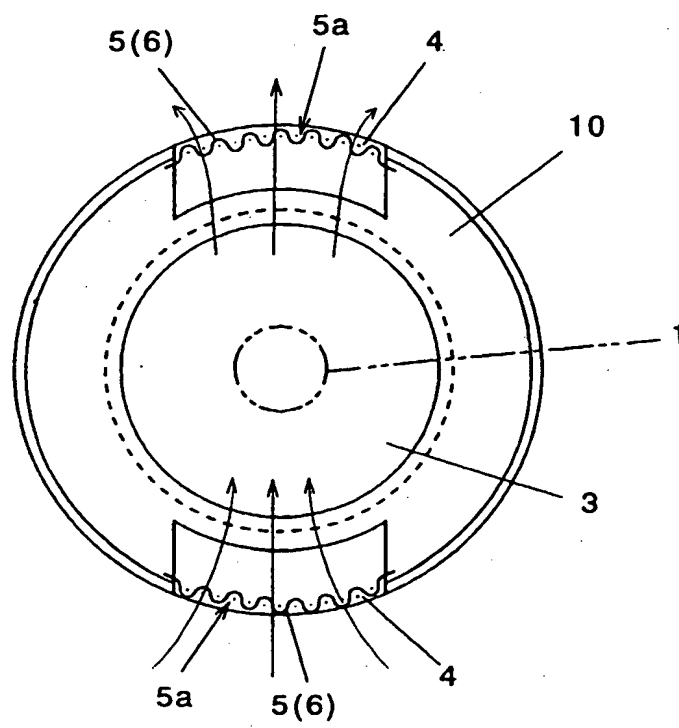


Fig.16

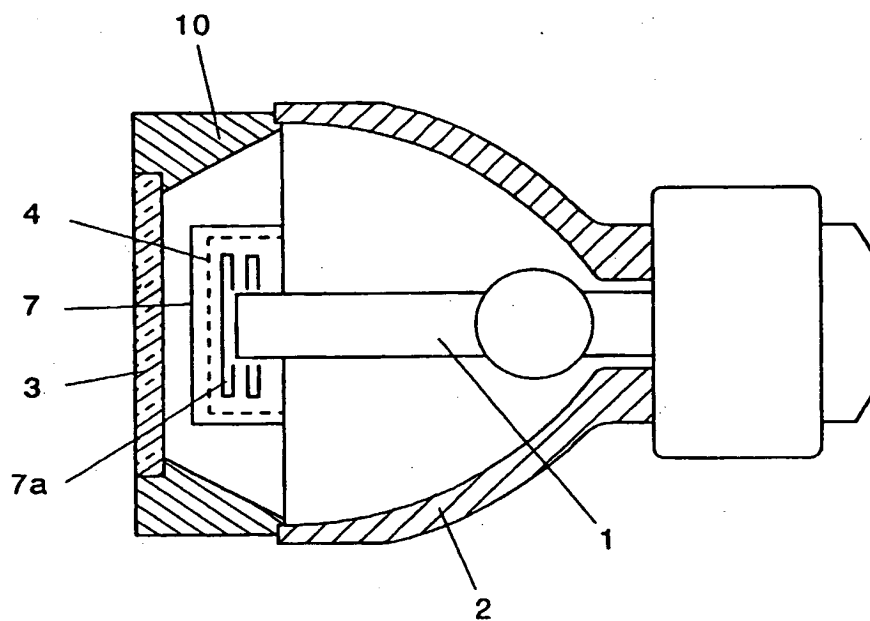


Fig.17

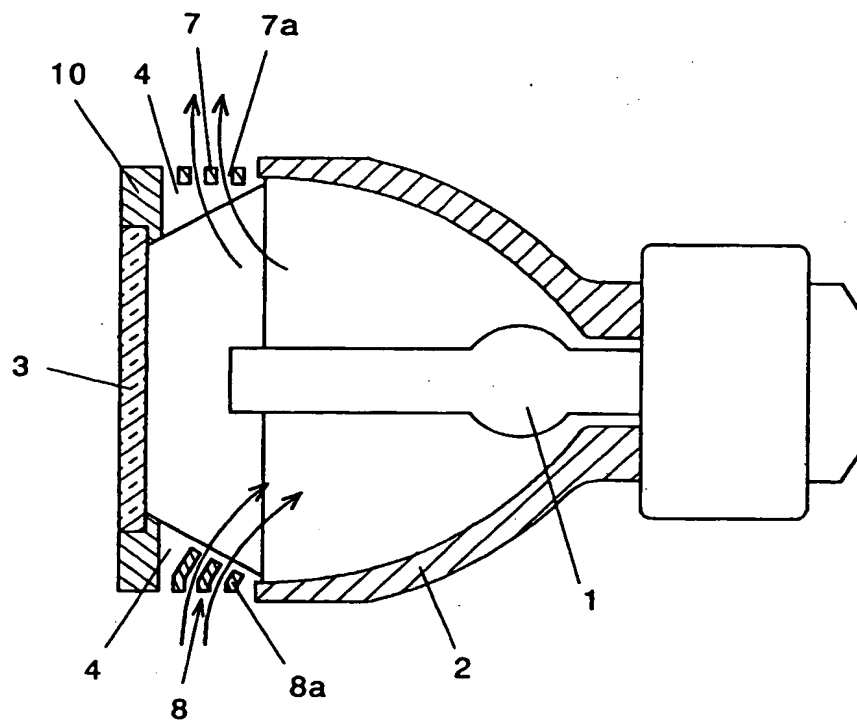


Fig.18

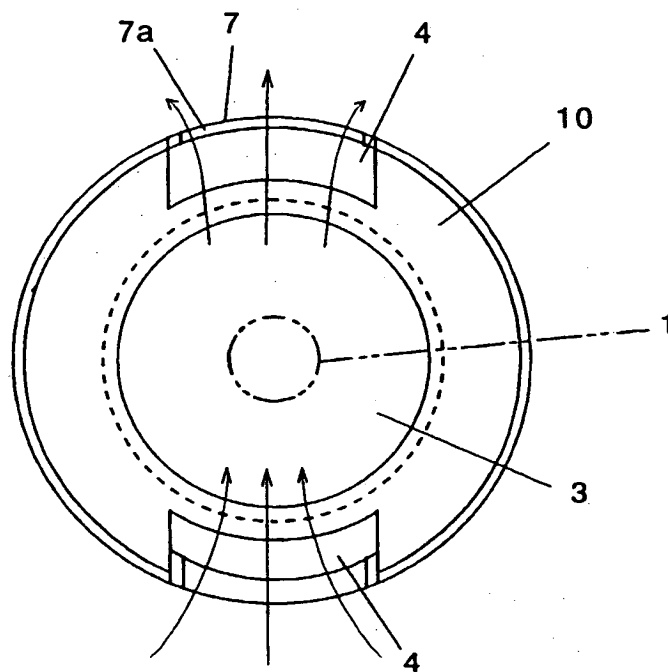


Fig.19

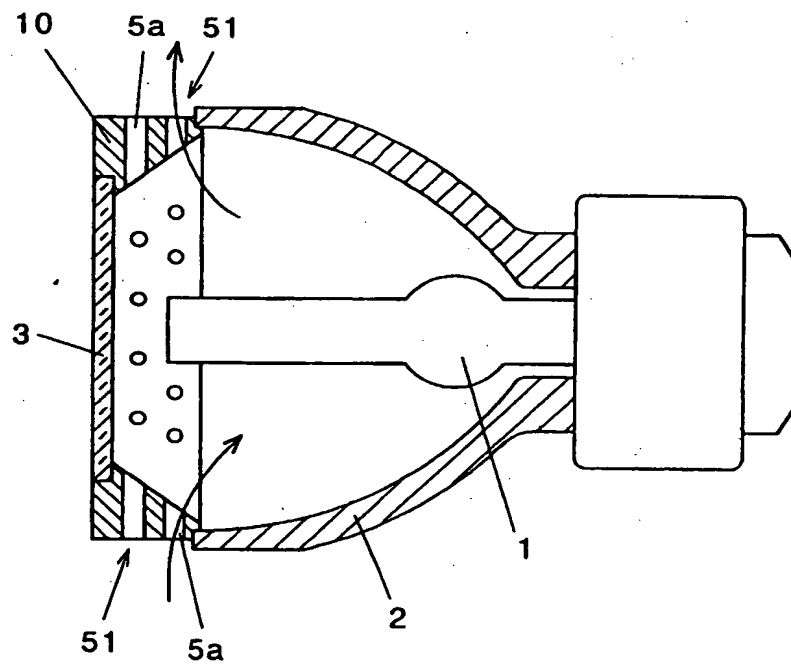
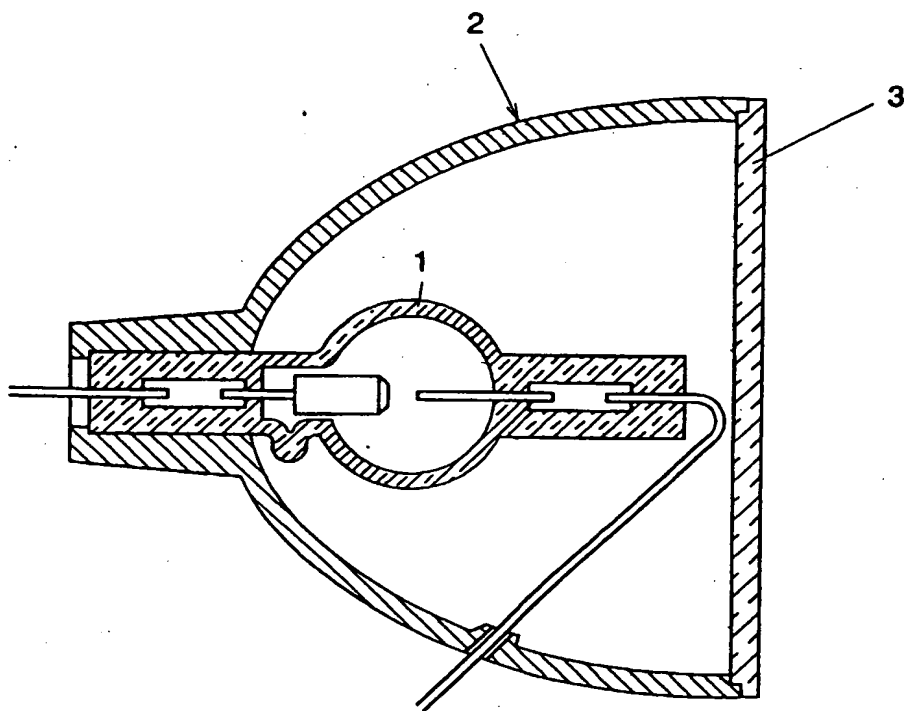


Fig.21



THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)